



## Bellwether Magazine

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Volume 1  
Number 79 *Summer 2013*

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Article 20

7-1-2013

# Class Notes

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## CLASS NOTES

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The Northeastern Pennsylvania “Old Time Vets” and some not so old vets met at the Wyalusing Hotel for a luncheon and storytelling afternoon. The “old timers” recalled their years of services rendered to small family subsistence. VMDs in attendance included **William Corbett, V’79**, **Amos Hollister, V’53**, **Bryan Lee, V’60**, **Skip Nelson, V’68**, **Walter North, V’63**, **Carl Reynolds, V’60**, **Mike Sheruda, V’11**, **T.W. Shoemaker, V’50**, and **Megan Tiffany, V’12**.

John W. Lee, Jr., DVM and his staff of VMDs including **Jill Acland, V’09**, **Steven Berkowitz, V’83**, **Patricia Blakeslee, V’88**, **Mark Donaldson, V’93**, **Ricardo Loinaz, V’08**, and **Emily Schaefer, V’11** have opened a new state-of-the-art equine clinic and surgical facility in Oxford, PA.

## 2000s

**P. Mark Lopez, V’03** and **Elizabeth (Ballard) Lopez, V’03** own and operate Wholesome Dairy Farms in Berks County, PA ([www.wholesomedairyfarms.com](http://www.wholesomedairyfarms.com)). It is a grass fed dairy farm producing milk, yogurt, greek yogurt, kefir, and cheeses. The website has a listing of stores in the region that carry their products.

**Kevin Wellejus, V’04** moved with his wife, Jill, and two daughters Claire, 16, and Casey, 4, to eastern Wisconsin where he works as a dairy manager for Holsom Dairies. He milks approximately 7,000 cows at two locations.

**Meghann (Brumsted) Pierdon, V’05** was named the 2013 recipient of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians Foundation Hogg Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to an AASV member who has been accepted into a qualified graduate program to further his or her education after years as a swine practitioner. Dr. Pierdon is currently pursuing a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. She plans to use the scholarship to support her pursuit of board certification in the newly formed American College of Animal Welfare.

**Erica Tramuta-Drobnis, V’05** started an internal medicine residency at Lehigh Valley Health Network in June of 2012. She currently works at Quakertown

Veterinary Clinic as a General Practitioner and as an Emergency Vet. Dr. Tramuta-Drobnis was deployed for Hurricane Sandy with the Federal National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT-2) and spent time in both New Jersey and New York City. She is a member of the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team through the AVMA.

**Fred Baff, V’63** and his son, **Wesley Baff, V’06** run Plumtrees Animal Hospital in Danbury, Connecticut. Dr. Wesley Baff was one of 12 people who participated in a 190.2-mile overnight running relay race to raise money for the Jessica Rekos Memorial Fund. Jessica, the daughter of his fellow Newtown High School classmates Rich and Krista Rekos, was one of the 20 Sandy Hook Elementary School students slain on December 14. Last summer, when Jessica’s family vacationed on the Cape, she took an interest in whales. The group is running to raise funds for an internship at the Whale and Dolphin Society’s education outreach program.

**Leslie Kuczynski, V’06, DACVIM** recently joined the Internal Medicine Department at Metropolitan Veterinary Associates in Norristown, PA ([www.metro-vet.com](http://www.metro-vet.com)). MVA is a small animal specialty and emergency hospital that originated in 1986. They currently have 25 specialists in 11 different disciplines.

**Nadine Salomon, V’06** serves on the board of the Equitarian Initiative, a group of equine veterinarians and caregivers looking to provide education, leadership and assistance to the working equid and, by extension, their families. Dr. Salomon’s interest in equitarian work started after participating in an RAVS trip on a Nevada Indian reservation during vet school. She is currently an equine practitioner at Allegheny Equine, a private practice outside of Pittsburgh.

**Marc Valitutto, V’06** recently appeared on The Today Show for a feature story on the sloth. He is the General Curator, Veterinarian for the Staten Island Zoological Society.

Quack’s Corner, Cumberland County’s only all-volunteer animal rescue and sanctuary, has honored **Dr. Ryan Gorman, V’07** with its Golden Egg award. Dr. Gorman is an associate veterinarian and partner at the Millville Animal Clinic. The Golden Egg award is given to those who show extraordinary acts of compassion toward animals. Recently, Quack’s Corner rescued Emmy Lou, a paralyzed beagle found in the woods by a hunter.

**Simeon Taft, V'10** and his wife, Heidi (GrNu'09), welcomed a son, George, on March 22, 2013. The family resides in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

**Ashleigh (Walker) Newman, V'10** started her three-year residency in Clinical Pathology in July 2012 at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

A fellow in large animal ultrasound and cardiology at New Bolton Center, **Laura Faulkner, V'11** has expertise in matters of the equine heart. She presented "What's the Buzz? Heart Murmurs in Horses" at the Pennsylvania Horse World Expo held in February.

## 1990s

**Ann E. Bastian, V'93** attended the 2012 Paso Fino Horse Association Grand National Championship with her four-year-old Paso Fino colt Rigoletto de Las Camelias, aka Rio. Rio placed in all four of his classes, which is a great showing for his first Nationals.

**Christine Kreuder Johnson, V'94** received the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine 2012 Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award at a reception on October 2.

## 1980s

**James F. Dougherty, V'80** has joined the Board of Trustees of Rutgers University.

**Fern Tablin, V'80, GR'84** received the 2012 Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award in recognition of her exceptional, sustained, and significant accomplishments in teaching DVM students. This award honors faculty whose ability, dedication, character, and leadership contribute significantly to instruction in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine's professional curricula.

**Stephen Peoples, V'84** has been appointed to a three-year term on the Orthopaedic Institute of Medicine (OIOM) Council. Steve retired from Johnson & Johnson in 2009 and established Peoples & Associates, a consulting group providing services to the orthopaedic profession and industry.

## 1970s

**David Welch, V'72, MBA**, leader of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners Veterinary Practice Sustainability Committee, and Russ Daly, DVM, South Dakota State University, spoke at the National Food

Animal Veterinary Institute meeting on strengthening the rural veterinary infrastructure.

**George F. Henning, V'76, MD** has been promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Penn State College of Medicine and Director of Family Medicine Obstetrics. Dr. Henning recently received the College of Medicine outreach award for his work with the Lion Care free clinic in Harrisburg, PA.

## RESIDENT & INTERN ALUMNI

**Florien Jenner** has taken the reins as the head of equine surgery at Vetmeduni Vienna, the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna. She studied veterinary medicine in Munich before working for many years in the United States, and most recently, in Ireland. She completed an internship and a residency at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2006, she accepted a position as lecturer for equine surgery at the University College Dublin's School of Veterinary Medicine, and obtained her Diploma of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons. Most recently, she completed her PhD on joint development and its implication for tissue engineering of articular cartilage.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

**Sheldon Farber, V'44** passed away on January 26, 2013.

**Peter H. Langer, V'46** passed away at Royal University Hospital. He obtained a PhD in veterinary virology at Cornell University in 1960 and worked for several years in the development of veterinary vaccines before moving to Ottawa, Canada to become the Director of Veterinary Biologics, Canada.

**John C. Shook, V'48** of Mechanicsburg passed away at The Fairways in State College, PA. He served in Germany during World War II with the 138th US Army Evacuation Hospital. After completion of his VMD, he opened his own large animal practice in Spring Mills, PA. He then moved into regulatory service, where his life's work focused on the control and/or eradication of such animal diseases as hog cholera, brucellosis, tuberculosis, and avian influenza. He served as the State Veterinarian of Pennsylvania, and later the State Veterinarian of Maryland. He was a former President and long time Treasurer for the US Animal Health Association.

**Calvin Benjamin Umble, V'51** died in Chambersburg Hospital. He and his family moved to Chambersburg, PA in 1967, when he became partner in the Chambersburg Animal Hospital. Prior to joining the Chambersburg practice, Dr. Umble practiced independently in Honey Brook, PA from 1951 to 1964. From 1964 to 1967, he performed research pathology for Rutgers State University in their Vineland, NJ facilities. A veteran of World War II, having served with the 406th Regiment, 102nd Infantry Division, Dr. Umble was awarded the Purple Heart for action in Germany.

**Ramsay S. Buchanan, V'54** passed away at his home at Mercer Hill Farm. His work with monkeys for polio vaccine research at Merck Sharpe and Dohme took him on safari to Ethiopia during the '58 coup d'état and to the Philippines. He became a partner in the King of Prussia Veterinary Hospital with Dr. John Church in 1961, where he practiced small animal medicine until his retirement in 1988. A lifelong horseman and fox hunter, he took great pleasure in working with hounds with Mrs. John B. Hannum, MFH, and was privileged to be an honorary whipper-in for five years, later serving as field master for hound exercising for four summers.

**William R. Nehoda, V'54** of Forks Township, PA, passed away in Gracedale. Dr. Nehoda was a retired veterinarian and founder of the Easton Animal Hospital in Forks Township, PA. He served as a captain in the Air Force during the Korean War. Kelly Craig, V'96, who worked for Dr. Nehoda, commented that he was "a man who dedicated his life to his practice, his family and his community." He served his country, and then practiced mixed animal medicine before founding a small animal practice that is still thriving today under his son's ownership. His insight and wisdom, honed from decades of practice where history taking, physical exam skills, and instinct were the only diagnostic tools, proved to be a delightful treasure-trove of anecdotes of how things were done "back in the day." He was like a favorite grandfather and James Herriot rolled into one.

**John W. Higgins, V'55** passed away on January 29, 2013. He founded the Yorkville Animal Hospital in 1962

and served as the Director and Chief Surgeon until his death. He loved all creatures great and small.

**Edwin Ramsey Gearhart, V'56** died at Sentara Norfolk (VA) General Hospital after a brief illness. After practicing for a year in Hagerstown, MD, he returned to Williamsport and owned Gearhart Veterinary Clinic from 1957 through 1974. He then joined practices in Chicago and suburban Pittsburgh before moving to Virginia Beach, where he owned Independence Veterinary Clinic for almost 20 years before retiring to Florida.

**Richard A. Vaclavik, V'56** practiced his craft until just three weeks prior to his passing. Dr. Vaclavik opened the Upper Dauphin Animal Hospital in Millersburg, PA in 1960, where he practiced for the past 53 years. He also served as a veterinarian for the State Department of Agriculture.

**Max J. Herman, V'59**, 81, of Collegeville, PA passed away at Shannondell in Audubon, PA. In 1963, he founded Trooper Hospital and went on to become board-certified in Animal Dentistry in 1998, establishing Animal Dental Clinic the same year. Dr. Herman graduated from veterinary school and began his career as a Captain in the Air Force in Niagara, NY. In 2005, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association presented him with the Keystone Award, recognizing his hard work in co-founding the American Museum of Veterinary Medicine.

**John E. Tartaglione, V'64**, 75, of Blakeslee, PA passed away at Coventry Manor in Pottstown, PA. He was the former owner of East Stroudsburg Veterinary Hospital for 35 years. He had a love for animals, especially horses, and enjoyed spending time in any country setting.

**William Stanley Rokus, V'65** passed away at Heritage Hall Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Leesburg, Virginia. He was a graduate of Duke University, where he was a member of the football team. Upon graduation from Penn, he opened his practice, Rokus Veterinary Hospital, in Leesburg from 1965 to 2003, devoted to caring for both large and small animals. He served his country during the Korean War in the United States Army.

## CONTACTUS

Calling all VMDs and former Penn Vet interns and residents! Have you received a promotion, gotten married, had a baby, received an award, had a research finding, or opened a new business? Please share your good news with us! Email the alumni office at [kmcmul@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:kmcmul@vet.upenn.edu) or write to us at Alumni Relations, Penn Veterinary Alumni Office, 3800 Spruce Street, Suite 172E, Philadelphia, PA 19104.